

TO: Candidates Qualifying for Elected Office

RE: Filing of Statements of Economic Interests

The Alabama Ethics Law requires that **candidates for elected office at every level of government file a Statement of Economic Interests with the appropriate election official** (i.e., political party, Probate Judge, or municipal clerk) **simultaneously with the date he or she becomes a candidate**. Such election official then has five days in which to forward the Statement of Economic Interests to the Commission. **Failure to file your Statement of Economic Interests simultaneously with your qualifying papers could result in your name being removed from the ballot.** Please be careful to see that you comply with this section of the law or you may be disqualified as a candidate.

Pertinent sections of the Ethics Law are as follows:

Section 36-25-15 (a) Code of Alabama, 1975, provides:

*(a) Candidates at every level of government shall file a completed statement of economic interests for the previous calendar year with the appropriate election official simultaneously with the date he or she becomes a candidate as defined in Section 17-22A-2 or the date such candidate files his or her qualifying papers with the appropriate election official, whichever date occurs first. Such election official shall within five days forward the statement of economic interests of the candidate to the Commission. **Nothing in this section shall be deemed to require a second filing of the person's statement of economic interests if a current statement of economic interests is on file with the Commission (emphasis added).***

A statement of economic interests shall be completed and filed in accordance with this chapter with the commission no later than April 30 of each year covering the preceding calendar year. *Section 36-25-14(a).*

Section 36-25-15(c), Code of Alabama, 1975, provides:

(c) Other provisions of the law notwithstanding, if a candidate does not submit a statement of economic interests in accordance with the requirements of this chapter, the name of the person shall not appear on the ballot and the candidate shall be deemed not qualified as a candidate in that election. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission may, for good cause shown, allow the candidate an additional five days to file such statement of economic interests. If a candidate is deemed not qualified, the appropriate election official shall remove the name of the candidate from the ballot.

Section 36-25-6, Code of Alabama, 1975, Use of Contributions, provides:

Contributions to an office holder, a candidate, or to a public official's inaugural or transitional fund shall not be converted to personal use.

In the event that you have any questions, please contact the Alabama Ethics Commission at 334-242-2997.